

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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TITLE OF CASE CHANGED ABELARDO LUNA VALENCIA <i>Abelardo</i>		Report made by GERARD C. CARROLL	Typed By: mjg
		CHARACTER OF CASE REGISTRATION ACT 98252	

Synopsis

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WALTER FITZMAURICE filed statement with the Registration Section, Internal Security Division, United States Department of Justice on 1/22/58, in which he listed subject as his principal. FITZMAURICE advised during interview by Bureau Agents that no promise of payment was made to him by VALENCIA for the work done by FITZMAURICE in his behalf. Information from informant reflects that a request was made for subject's office in the National Press Building, Washington, D.C., to be changed in the listing at the National Press Building from the Philippine Association to the Philippine Information Agency. Subject in May, 1958, maintained an office in Room 1277 at the National Press Building and served as Director of the Washington Bureau of the Philippine Information Agency which, according to stationery used by the subject, was connected with "Office of the President of the Philippines." Records of the Protocol Office, United States Department of State, reflect subject has been Press Attache at the Embassy of the Philippines, WDC, since 1954. Interviews of the subject, WALTER FITZMAURICE, and other pertinent persons reported. Background data regarding the subject and PIA in addition to releases prepared by the subject as the Director of PIA also included.

Approved

Thomas J. McInerney
Acting
Special Agent in Charge

Special Agent in Charge

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The title of this case is marked "changed" to reflect the full name of the subject, ABELARDO LUNA VALENCIA, as furnished by T-4, another governmental agency engaged in conducting personnel and intelligence type investigations.

I. PREDICATION OF INVESTIGATION AND INFORMATION FURNISHED BY T-1

Investigation in this case is predicated upon information furnished by T-1, in connection with another investigation, that WALTER FITZMAURICE was employed by ALBERDO L. VALENCIA to create favorable publicity for JOSE P. LAUREL, JR., who was a candidate for Vice President of the Philippines in the November, 1957, elections. T-1 stated that ARNAUD DE BORCHGRAVE, Senior Editor, "Newsweek" magazine, New York City, advised him on October 30-31, 1957, that BENJAMIN BRADLEE of the "Newsweek" Bureau in Washington, D.C., had forwarded to him a press release submitted to the "Newsweek" Washington Bureau by WALTER FITZMAURICE, which apparently was an attempt to create favorable publicity for JOSE P. LAUREL, JR., Vice Presidential candidate in the November National Elections in the Philippines. The material submitted by FITZMAURICE, according to information furnished to T-1 by Mr. DE BORCHGRAVE, reflected the name ALBERDO L. VALENCIA.

T-1 advised that a "Newsweek" article in the October 21, 1957, issue, Pages 64-65, and a "Time" magazine article of October 28, 1957, Pages 34 and 36, contained derogatory information concerning JOSE LAUREL, JR. and that both articles were apparently the reason behind FITZMAURICE's attempt to insert favorable publicity and/or contradiction of unfavorable publicity.

T-1 stated that ALBERDO L. VALENCIA, mentioned above, was formerly with the Philippine Association from approximately 1950 to 1953, when he became Press Attache at the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. T-1 added that VALENCIA has for some years maintained the Philippine Information Service office in the National Press Building (NPB), Washington, D.C., and that his last known residence was [REDACTED]

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On October 31, 1957, T-1 had EDWARD MOSS, [REDACTED] attempt to contact VALENCIA who was not available at that time. VALENCIA's secretary, according to T-1, advised that WALTER FITZMAURICE was handling "Philippine Matters" for VALENCIA. According to T-1, Mr. MOSS also contacted FITZMAURICE and was advised by the latter that he was the Director of Public Relations of the Philippine Government and for VALENCIA, Press Attache in the Philippine Embassy.

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[REDACTED]

government was particularly interested that the American press give complete and fair coverage to the election. He explained that President GARCIA of the Philippines was determined that the elections be held in a democratic fashion and that this fact be reported in the American press. He said that in line with this President GARCIA had issued a special invitation to American newspapermen to come to the Philippines to report on the elections.

Mr. VALENCIA stated that at this time an article appeared in "Newsweek" magazine about the Philippine elections which was derogatory and contained inaccuracies. Mr. VALENCIA said that he wanted to get "Newsweek" to print another article. He said that he wanted this article to contain the facts that the government of the Philippines was determined that the election would be a democratic one and that the President of the Government had issued a special invitation to American newsmen to come to the country to observe the election. He stated that he wanted the story to serve to inform the American people of the election, of the public offices involved, and of all the candidates running for these offices.

Mr. VALENCIA said that he was looking for someone to introduce him to the "Newsweek" people so that he could interest them in this story. He said that he mentioned this to RICHARD RENDELL. He said that RENDELL works for the American Broadcasting Company and is the news editor for WIAL Broadcasting Station, Washington, D.C. He said that RENDELL suggested to him that WALTER FITZMAURICE had formerly worked for "Newsweek" and would probably know people there. He said he knew FITZMAURICE from seeing him about the National Press Building. He said that RENDELL introduced him to FITZMAURICE. He advised that he told FITZMAURICE what he wanted and gave FITZMAURICE an outline of the facts he felt should be in the news story.

He stated that FITZMAURICE took him to see a Mr. BRADLEE at the "Newsweek" offices in Washington. He advised that they told Mr. BRADLEE what they would like and asked him if "Newsweek" would be interested in the story. He said that BRADLEE said he could do nothing for them but that they could contact a Mr. de BORCHGRAVE who is in the New York offices of "Newsweek." Mr. VALENCIA said that FITZMAURICE said he had to go to New York on other business and would be happy to discuss the matter with Mr. de BORCHGRAVE while there. He said that several days later FITZMAURICE said that he had talked with de BORCHGRAVE in New York and that all they could do was wait and see if the story was printed. Mr. VALENCIA said that as a

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTERVIEW REPORT

March 11, 1958

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Mr. ABELARDO L. VALENCIA, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], was interviewed and furnished the following information. He explained at the outset of the interview that he had returned to Washington, D.C., from the Philippines on January 20, 1958. He stated that he had been there since November, 1957. He advised that he had diplomatic status as Press Attache at the Embassy of the Philippines and explained that his office in the National Press Building, Room 1277, was in connection with his work with the Philippine Information Agency. He stated that he usually spent his mornings at the Embassy and his afternoons at his office in the National Press Building. He said that all of his income was from the Government of the Philippines.

He stated that the Philippine Information Agency was supported solely by the Government of the Philippines as a service to Philippine newspapers. He stated that in most cases these newspapers depended on the wire services for stories from the United States but that occasionally he would send special stories to all the papers. Mr. VALENCIA stated that he was not a public relations man and had no experience in that field. He said he was a journalist by profession, had been a newspaperman all his life.

Mr. VALENCIA was asked whether WALTER FITZMAURICE had ever done work for the Philippine Government. Mr. VALENCIA stated that Mr. FITZMAURICE had, in October, 1957, attempted to get the editors of "Newsweek" magazine to publish an article on the Philippine elections. He stated that he, VALENCIA, had given FITZMAURICE the facts for the article and had accompanied him to the "Newsweek" Office in Washington where they talked with Mr. BRADLEE. He said that FITZMAURICE had also talked with a Mr. de BORCHGRAVE of the "Newsweek" office in New York on the same matter. Mr. VALENCIA said that nothing was printed in "Newsweek" and FITZMAURICE received no money in connection with this.

Mr. VALENCIA explained the background and details of this association with FITZMAURICE as follows. He explained that general elections were held in the Philippines in November, 1957. Mr. VALENCIA said that in October of 1957, his

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Interview with ABELARDO L. VALENCIA File # [REDACTED]

on 1/29/58 at National Press Club, National Press Building, Washington, D.C. Date Dictated: 1/30/58

by Special Agents MALCOLM P. CARR and ajp/meg
THEODORE N. COBLE

[REDACTED]

matter of fact the story was not printed and the matter ended there. He said that at no time had he discussed employing Mr. FITZMAURICE either on this matter or any other matter. He advised that he did not pay FITZMAURICE for the time he spent on this matter and that they never have discussed any such payment. Mr. VALENCIA said that he knew that FITZMAURICE was in the public relations field. He said that he believed that FITZMAURICE had helped him with this matter with the hope that if any public relations work came along it would be given to him.

Mr. VALENCIA volunteered that he believed he knew how information about FITZMAURICE came to the attention of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He said that a short while after FITZMAURICE returned from New York that Mr. BRADLEE of "Newsweek" came to his, VALENCIA's, office. He said that BRADLEE wanted to ascertain if FITZMAURICE was working for the Philippine Information Agency. He said that he told BRADLEE then that FITZMAURICE was definitely not working for him and had never been so employed. He said that he had two telephone inquiries since then asking the same question and he gave the same answer to both.

He advised that FITZMAURICE never had any position with the Government of the Philippines, and was not and never had been Director of Public Relations.

He advised that he had been told that Mr. de BORCHGRAVE had been seen in New York having lunch with a Mr. GEORGE PEABODY. He stated that he believed Mr. PEABODY furnished the information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and was responsible for Mr. BRADLEE's inquiry about FITZMAURICE as well as the two telephone inquiries.

He stated that PEABODY was with the Philippine Association, with offices in New York City. He said that this association was financed by a group of private concerns in the Philippines to create good will for the country in the United States. He said that PEABODY was a public relations agent with offices in New York and represented the association. He stated that those supporting the association in the Philippines had slowly been becoming dissatisfied with the work of PEABODY. He said they were beginning to feel that they were not getting value for the money the association cost them. He pointed out that PEABODY went to Manila at least once a year to drum up business and try to make his supporters feel that there was a need for his continued services. Mr. VALENCIA said that when

[REDACTED]

the association was formed the Philippine Government was in no position to do the public relations work but that now there was a feeling in the government that it should take over the job. He said he believed that PEABODY realized this and felt that the Philippine Information Agency had perhaps started the job. He pointed out that this was in fact not true. He said that for this reason, however, he believed PEABODY was jealous of the Philippine Information Agency and of him, VALENCIA.

Mr. VALENCIA was asked if REGINALD MITCHELL was employed by the Philippines. He stated he was not and never had been. He advised that he had one employee, a secretary, who handled his office in the National Press Building. He stated that he had asked Mr. MITCHELL to stop by his office during the time that he was in the Philippines merely to check on the Secretary and to help her if she had any mail she could not handle. He said that MITCHELL did this as a favor and was not paid for it nor requested any pay.

Mr. VALENCIA reiterated that he was not in the public relations business but rather was a journalist and newspaperman. He repeated that he represented the Government of the Philippines and was not employed by any one individual or group of individuals. He said that the big news story which he tried to get the American press to carry during the time of the election was merely to acquaint the American people with the fact that an election would take place and that it would be a fair one. He said that the names of all the candidates were listed and that no one candidate was especially favored. He said that this was true of the story he had tried to get in "Newsweek" magazine as well as other news stories he had worked on.

Mr. VALENCIA pointed out that he himself was divorced from politics and was a professional man. He said that he had worked for all the Presidents of the Philippines. He said he had not worked in this election campaign for Mr. GARCIA or Mr. LAUREL or any other candidate, but for the government as a whole. He stated that FITZMAURICE was not the Director of Public Relations for the Philippine Government.

[REDACTED]

"Item: Valencia's efforts back in Washington assured coverage for Scripps-Howard by two of its special far eastern correspondents, Harry Taylor, now in Australia, and Jack Russell, now in Hong Kong; for INS by Earl Marckres of that service's Washington bureau; for Parade, by that Sunday supplement's Washington correspondent, Fred Blumenthal; for CBS by its Tokyo correspondent, Peter Kalischer, and for the New York Herald Tribune by its Tokyo bureau chief, Walter Briggs. To write comment, the Washington Post assigned its editorial writer, Robert Estabrook; the New York Times, a member of its editorial board, Robert Aura Smith.

"Item: The Philippine ministry of communications cabled specific coverage invitations to the editors of the Nation, Rangoon, Burma; the Observer and the Times of Indonesia, Djakarta; the Straits Times, Singapore, Malaya; the Times of Ceylon, Ceylon; the Dawn of Karachi and the Pakistan Times, Pakistan, and the States and the Times of India, New Delhi.

"The reporters were assured full opportunity to observe everything about the campaign and to report it as they saw it. The Manila press praised the plan editorially as one that would help insure an honest election, but the charges of intended rigging continued. Garcia, however, urged Valencia to add more correspondents to the American contingent if he could."

Attached to the foregoing news release was a memorandum setting forth that the news release was provided by A. L. VLAENCIA, Chief of the Philippine Information Agency in Washington, and by his associates. It related the documentation that would be needed to develop a story in "Newsweek."

The photostatic copies of the teletype reflected that it was from BRADLEE to de BORCHGRAVE and was dated November 1, 1957, and dealt with the Philippines. It indicated that de BORCHGRAVE had called FITZMAURICE. It indicated that BRADLEE had questioned VALENCIA as to who hired FITZMAURICE and quoted VALENCIA as saying "Anyone who says I hired FITZMAURICE is a Goddam liar. A Goddam liar, that's all." BRADLEE indicated in the teletype that VALENCIA said that one GEORGE PEABODY did not represent the Philippine Government and never had, but rather represented a group of Philippine industrialists banded together as the Philippine Association. BRADLEE observed that VALENCIA might be right since PEABODY was not registered as a foreign agent with the Justice Department. BRADLEE stated that FITZMAURICE had called him to advise that he was going to the Justice Department, but BRADLEE observed that if no money changed hands, he doubted whether FITZMAURICE had to register.

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VI. INTERVIEW OF MR. ARNAUD DE BORCHGRAVE, SENIOR EDITOR OF "NEWSWEEK"

On December 24, 1957, the following interviews were conducted by SAs HAROLD A. HOEG and ROBERT RUSS FRANK at "Newsweek" magazine, 152 West 42nd Street, New York City:

Mr. ARNAUD DE BORCHGRAVE, Senior Editor, advised that BENJAMIN BRADLEE, "Newsweek" Bureau, Washington, D.C., submitted to him a press release which had been submitted to "Newsweek" in Washington, D.C., by WALTER FITZMAURICE in the latter part of October, 1957. Mr. DE BORCHGRAVE advised that he had never personally met FITZMAURICE but telephoned him in Washington, D.C. He stated that from his conversation with the subject he was of the "impression" that WALTER FITZMAURICE was hired by the subject to offset the unfavorable publicity received by JOSE (PEPITO) LAUREL, JR. in "Newsweek" and other publications prior to the Philippine National Elections. Mr. DE BORCHGRAVE related that FITZMAURICE telephonically admitted to him that he had been employed by VALENCIA and that even though FITZMAURICE did so admit this employment, FITZMAURICE stated he saw no need to register as a foreign agent. It was also DE BORCHGRAVE's "impression" from his telephonic contact with FITZMAURICE that the latter was only hired by VALENCIA to perform such work until the Philippine election on November 12, 1957.

VII. INTERVIEW OF RICHARD DAVIS, FORMER ACTING CHIEF OF THE WASHINGTON BUREAU OF "NEWSWEEK" MAGAZINE

Mr. RICHARD DAVIS, Douglas Aircraft Company, Incorporated, Suite 603, Bank of Commerce Building, 1700 "K" Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., advised SA THEODORE N. GOBLE on April 11, 1958, that he was acquainted with the contact made by WALTER FITZMAURICE and the subject with BENJAMIN BRADLEE of "Newsweek" magazine.

Mr. DAVIS stated that in October, 1957, he was Acting Chief of the Washington Bureau of "Newsweek" magazine. He said that FITZMAURICE came to him during this time (exact date not recalled) requesting to know who handled Philippine matters for "Newsweek". Mr. DAVIS said that FITZMAURICE had some mimeographed material with him which he claimed was a good news story concerning the Philippine elections and the attempt of the Philippine Government to insure adequate news

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coverage of this election. Mr. DAVIS referred FITZMAURICE to Mr. BENJAMIN BRADLEE of "Newsweek". BRADLEE subsequently indicated to Mr. DAVIS that there was nothing of news value for "Newsweek" in FITZMAURICE's story.

Mr. DAVIS stated he first became acquainted with FITZMAURICE in about 1941 and added that he did not know ABELARDO VALENCIA, although he was aware that VALENCIA maintained an office in the National Press Building. DAVIS stated he was of the opinion that REGINALD MITCHELL was a public relations man with an office in the National Press Building. DAVIS was under the impression that FITZMAURICE was working for MITCHELL when he was trying to "push" the Philippine story. DAVIS, however, could not specifically recall if FITZMAURICE had mentioned MITCHELL's name.

VIII. INTERVIEW OF BENJAMIN BRADLEE "NEWSWEEK"
MAGAZINE, NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING, WASHINGTON,
D.C.